

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 OMB-01

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FOR: EA. AMB. GREEN

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SUB: CLARIFICATION AUSTRALIAN PRESS ROUNDUP AUGUST 10.

REF: WASHINGTON UNCLAS. STATE 158527.

PARA THREE IS A REPORT ONLY OF T.V. INTERVIEW BY ROBIN DAY WITH WHITLAM ON A BRITISH BROADCASTING COMMISSION PROGRAM SHOWN ON CANADIAN BROADCASTING NETWORKS AUG. 9. FULL TEXT NOT REPORTED IN ANY AUSTRALIAN PAPER. ADDITIONAL QUOTES FOLLOW: "BUT I THINK THAT WHAT WE HAVE GOT TO ACCEPT NOW IS THAT NOT EVEN THE GREATEST POWER IN THE WORLD CAN ENGAGE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE POPULATION." "AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON THE SUPPORT OF A WELL INFORMED PUBLIC. IT HAS BEEN THE EFFORTS TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC WHICH HAVE WEAKENED AMERICA." ASKED IF HE BELIEVED HE HAD MENDED FENCES WITH U.S. AND NIXON HE REPLIED: "THERE IS NOW A MUCH MORE FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA THAN THERE WAS BEFORE." "OUR PREDECESSORS IN GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA WAITED FOR THE APPROVAL OR CUE FROM BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THEY TOOK ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTION" "WE CERTAINLY CONSIDER WHAT THE REACTIONS OF THE U.S. AND

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BRITAIN WILL BE. BUT WE ALSO CONSIDER THE ACTIONS AND

SENTIMENTS OF OUR NEIGHBOURS. WE USED TO FIND THE SITUATION IN MANY CASES IN THE UNITED NATIONS WHERE WE WOULD BE VOTING BESIDE, SAY, BRITAIN, FRANCE, SOUTH AFRICA, PORTUGAL AND SOMETIMES THE U.S. AND ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS. WELL NOW AT LEAST I WANT TO KNOW BEFORE WE CAST ANY INTERNATIONAL VOTE WHAT BRITAIN AND THE U.S. MAY BE THINKING ABOUT IT, BUT ALSO JAPAN, INDONESIA AND TANZANIA TO GIVE SOME EXAMPLES."

ASKED IF AUSTRALIA FELT SECURE IN THE PACIFIC PM SAID HE DID NOT THINK EFFORTS OF FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE (DULLES) TO CONTAIN CHINA IN 1950'S AND 60'S HAD BEEN WELL BASED. "THE WHOLE 18 YEARS WERE WASTED""BUT THERE ARE CHANGES NOW. AUSTRALIA DIDN'T BRING THEM ABOUT. PRESIDENT NIXON FACED UP TO CLEARING AWAY THE DULLES DETRITUS. WE ACCEPT THOSE CHANGES. WE WELCOME THOSE CHANGES."

DURING THE INTERVIEW MR. WHITLAM STRESSED WHAT THE U.S., BRITAIN AND JAPAN "BULK LARGEST" IN AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS.

PARA 4. AUSTRALIA FRONTPAGED REPORT HEADED "CAIRNS DEMANDS U.S. STOP CAMBODIA RAIDS." REPORT FOLLOWS:

"THE MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, DR. CAIRNS, SAID YESTERDAY AMERICA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY END ITS BOMBING OF CAMBODIA. DR. CAIRNS SAID AUSTRALIA SHOULD NEVER HAVE RECOGNISED THE LON NOL REGIME IN CAMBODIA AND SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXILED PRINCE SIHANOUK AS THE HEAD OF STATE.

HE ASKED MELBOURNE PEOPLE TO JOIN A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION IN THE CITY SQUARE TODAY.

"THE REASON FOR THE DEMONSTRATION IS TO BRING TO NOTICE THE UTTER INDEFENSIBILITY OF CARRYING ON THE WAR IN CAMBODIA." DR. CAIRNS SAID.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF THE SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT, THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE HAD "SUFFERED TERRIBLY FROM THE FIGHTING ON THE GROUND AND FROM DEVASTATION BY AMERICAN MASS BOMBING." THE BOMBING COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED AND SHOULD BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY.

"IT IS DUE TO STOP ON AUGUST 15," HE SAID. "BUT BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW AND THEN HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE COULD BE KILLED. IT SHOULD BE HALTED TODAY."

DR. CAIRNS' REMARKS ARE THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF THE U.S.

DR. CAIRNS SAID YESTERDAY HIS STATEMENTS DID NOT EMBARRASS THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. WHITLAM, WHO IS ALSO FOREIGN MINISTER.

"MR. WHITLAM AND I KNOW ONE ANOTHER'S VIEWS AND HE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST BIT EMBARRASSED BY WHAT I DO," DR. CAIRNS SAID.

DR. CAIRNS SAID THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO MEDIATE
IN THE INDO-CHINA SITUATION WHILE HE WAS IN CHINA BUT "NONE
OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED WAS INTERESTED.

"THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO DO ALL IT CAN TO STOP
THE WAR," HE SAID.

DR. CAIRNS WILL NOT ATTEND THE MELBOURNE PROTEST TODAY BECAUSE
OF OTHER COMMITMENTS."

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